



# **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

## *Department of Emergency Management*

MICHAEL M. CLINE  
State Coordinator

10501 Trade Court  
Richmond, Virginia 23236-3713  
(804) 897-6500  
(TDD) 674-2417  
FAX (804) 897-6506

**DISASTER FIELD OFFICE  
5701 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD  
NORTON, VIRGINIA 24273  
FEMA-1411-DR-VA  
Commonwealth Situation Report #8  
Tuesday, 14 May 2002**

**1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:**

*1200 hours 13 May 2002 through 1200 hours 14 May 2002. (New information in italics)*

**2. SITUATION:**

On the evening of 28 April a severe weather system entered Virginia from the west and, once across the Blue Ridge Mountains, developed into a series of tornadoes. Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City, and Bedford, Campbell, Greensville, and Shenandoah Counties. On 2 May 2002, continuing severe weather impacted Virginia. Wind, rain and flood damage was again widespread with the most severe damage occurring in the southwest part of the state. In Buchanan County, heaviest damage was northeast of Grundy in the vicinity of Hurley, and was due to flash flooding and mudslides. Damaging floodwaters and strong winds also impacted nearby Tazewell County.

Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City and the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Shenandoah, and Greensville on 28 April 2002.

On 2 May 2002, Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth in response to the tornado damage on 28 April 2002. On 3 May 2002 the declaration was expanded to include the areas affected by the storms of 2 May.

Local emergencies were declared in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties on 2 May 2002.

On 3 May 2002, Governor Warner requested that President Bush declare a major disaster for Bedford, Campbell, Greensville, Shenandoah, Buchanan, Tazewell, Cumberland, and Prince Edward counties and for the cities of Colonial Heights and Bedford.

On 5 May 2002, President Bush declared a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Virginia in FEMA 1411-DR-VA in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties for Individual Assistance (IA) and Hazard Mitigation.

On 8 May 2002, the Major Disaster Declaration was amended to include Public Assistance for the counties of Buchanan and Tazewell.

Functions at the Wise DFO established in a prior declared disaster, DR-1406-VA, have been expanded to include operations for DR-1411-VA. The DFO hours of operation are 0800 hrs to 1630 hrs Monday through Saturday. The DFO will continue to be closed on Sundays. Situation Reports will be published daily.

In the flash flooding event in Hurley, Virginia, two deaths are confirmed, 0 missing. There have been *11 work related injuries* reported. Power has been restored to 75-80 percent of the Hurley area. Telephone service is restored. Buchanan County schools have reopened but schools in Hurley will remain closed until further notice.

State agencies and other representatives on the scene include: Virginia State Police (VSP), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Army National Guard (ANG), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (VDCR), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Army Corps of Engineers, Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), Veterans Administration (VA), American Red Cross (ARC), Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VVOAD), Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Adventist Disaster Services, Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board, and clean up crews from the Virginia Southern Baptist Disaster Services, Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC), *AmeriCorps* and Virginia Wilderness Institute.

### 3. WEATHER:

*Wednesday: Mostly sunny. Highs from the mid 60s to near 70. Lows in the mid and upper 40s. West winds 5-10 mph.*

### 4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:

- A. Prepare for Community Meeting in Hurley.
- B. Integrate AmeriCorps into the Hurley Recovery effort.
- C. *Expedite the assessment* of housing needs and availability.
- D. Assist in Hurley Recovery in Buchanan County.
- E. *Manage expectations.*
- F. *Determine optimum solutions for debris.*

### 5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:

#### A. Individual Assistance (IA):

- Residents requiring disaster assistance are being referred to the FEMA teleregistration number, 1-800-621-3362, TTY 1-800-462-7585. These numbers are staffed 7 days a week, 0700 to 1900 hrs.

#### DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS

##### Daily Report

**Buchanan County DRC, Hurley Middle School, State Route 643, Hurley, VA**

**Opened 7 May 2002, Hours 0900-1800 hrs, 7 days/wk.**

| Date  | Today's Recp. | Phone Bank | AA* | SBA* | HazMit* | IFG* | DUA* | CC* | IRS* | AGRI* | INS* | AGING* | VOL* | LEGAL* | Local Official | Paper Apps. |
|-------|---------------|------------|-----|------|---------|------|------|-----|------|-------|------|--------|------|--------|----------------|-------------|
| 05/13 | 46            | 7          | 27  | 29   | 17      | 1    | 5    | 1   | 7    | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0    | 0      | 0              | 0           |
| Total | 242           | 83         | 181 | 165  | 165     | 6    | 30   | 5   | 17   | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0    | 0      | 0              | 18          |

*Daily Report*

*Tazewell County DRC, Old County Administration Building, 315 School St., Tazewell, VA  
Opened 13 May 2002, Hours 0900-1800 hrs, 7 days/wk.*

| Date  | Today's Recp. | Phone Bank | AA* | SBA* | HazMit* | IFG* | DUA* | CC* | IRS* | AGRI* | INS* | AGING* | VOL* | LEGAL* | Local Official | Paper Apps. |
|-------|---------------|------------|-----|------|---------|------|------|-----|------|-------|------|--------|------|--------|----------------|-------------|
| 05/13 | 3             | 0          | 3   | 2    | 3       | 1    | 0    | 0   | 1    | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0    | 0      | 0              | 0           |
| Total | 3             | 0          | 3   | 2    | 3       | 1    | 0    | 0   | 1    | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0    | 0      | 0              | 0           |

\*Applicant Assistance (AA), Small Business Administration (SBA), Hazard Mitigation (HazMit), Individual & Family Grants (IFG), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), Crisis Counseling (CC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Bureau (AGRI), Insurance Help (INS), Aging Services (AGING), Volunteer Agencies (VOL), Legal Help (LEGAL)

- A Hurley community meeting will be held on Thursday, 16 May 2002, at 1900 hrs at the Hurley Middle School. Hurley and *other Buchanan County* residents will be able to talk to Federal and Commonwealth Officials about issues related to recovery.
- *A FEMA-State session to prepare for the Hurley community meeting will be held at the DFO in Wise in Conference Room #1 at 1600 hrs on Wednesday, 15 May 2002.*
- Red Cross is distributing meals prepared by the Virginia Baptists. Meals served totals 11,020, six shelters have been opened, 136 people have been sheltered, one person sheltered currently, a service center is open, and there have been 60 mental health contacts to date. Red Cross Family Services staff is located on the second floor of the high school in Hurley.
- Donated goods located at the Hurley Middle School will be moved to a warehouse site, the Schell Building in Grundy, Virginia between Grundy and Vansant on Wednesday, 15 May 2002. Seventh Day Adventists are on site to manage warehouse functions.
- State/federal community relations are helping to coordinate clean up efforts by fifty (50) AmeriCorps workers in Hurley. *AmeriCorps volunteers are assisting Seventh Day Adventists today until all necessary citizen release forms are signed for housing access. Americorps will be performing clean up operations in the field by tomorrow.*
- The Regional Health Department has administered 1,050 tetanus shots to residents and workers at the Hurley Middle School. Hours for the clinic for are 1000 hrs to 1300 hrs.
- Food and water is being distributed at the school. A total of 3500 gallons of potable water is available for distribution to disaster victims in Hurley. Another 4000 gallons *is en route*. More will be made available as needed.
- The Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) is assisting Buchanan County in finding housing for victims.
- The Virginia Health Department continues its "boil water" advisory for the Hurley area and is providing information on restarting wells.
- Donations are being received at the Hurley Middle School. No more clothing donations are being accepted. Cash donations are being accepted by the Clinch Independent Living Services, PO Box 2741, Grundy, Virginia 24614. Requested

items include cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, diapers, food, rakes and shovels, and work gloves.

- The Human Services Program Summary as of COB 13 May 2002 follows:

#### **REGISTRATIONS & CONTACTS**

|                          | <i>Since Last Report</i> | <i>Designated<br/>Cities/Counties</i> | <i>Undesignated<br/>Counties</i> | <i>Cumulative</i> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Teleregistrations</i> | 80                       | 885/1                                 | 13                               | 899               |
| <i>Helpline Calls</i>    | 68                       |                                       |                                  | 208               |

#### **Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

| <b>CLAIMS</b>    | <b>SINCE LAST REPORT</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Filed</i>     |                          |              |
| <i>Approved</i>  |                          |              |
| <i>Paid (#)</i>  |                          |              |
| <i>Paid (\$)</i> |                          |              |

#### **Disaster Housing Program**

| <b>REGISTRATIONS</b>          | <b>SINCE LAST REPORT</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Received</i>               | 68                       | 786          |
| <i>Approved</i>               | 59                       | 215          |
| <i>Pending</i>                | -                        | 502          |
| <i>Approved Eligible (\$)</i> | \$152,591.40             | \$441,519.15 |
| <b>Assistance Checks</b>      |                          |              |
| <i>Recommended (#)</i>        | 67                       | 186          |
| <i>Recommended (\$)</i>       | \$139,036.34             | \$364,725.46 |

#### **Individual & Family Grant Program**

| <b>REGISTRATIONS</b>     | <b>SINCE LAST REPORT</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Received</i>          | 43                       | 447          |
| <i>Received by State</i> |                          | 0*           |
| <i>Pending Decision</i>  |                          |              |
| <i>Eligible (#)</i>      |                          |              |
| <i>Eligible (\$)</i>     |                          |              |
| <i>Disbursed (#)</i>     |                          |              |
| <i>Disbursed (\$)</i>    |                          |              |

#### **Small Business Administration**

| <b>LOAN APPLICATIONS</b> | <b>HOME</b> | <b>BUSINESS</b> | <b>ECONOMIC<br/>INJURY (EIDL)</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Issued</i>            | 375         | 91              | 0                                 | 466          |
| <i>Received</i>          | 30          | 8               | 8                                 | 46           |
| <i>Declined</i>          | 0           | 0               | 0                                 | 0            |
| <i>Withdrawn</i>         | 0           | 0               | 0                                 | 0            |
| <i>Approved (#)</i>      | 5           | 0               | 0                                 | 5            |
| <i>Approved (\$)</i>     | \$68,900    | 0               | 0                                 | \$68,900     |
| <i>Pending</i>           | 25          | 8               | 8                                 | 41           |

*\*IFG toggles have not been turned on for processing. No registrations will be transmitted until FEMA/State Agreement is signed and toggles are set.*

- The Virginia Bar Association has activated a toll-free Disaster Legal Services Number, 1-800-552-7977, to provide emergency legal services to disaster victims.
- Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board is functioning out of the Hurley DRC and is providing Mental Health, Crisis Counseling, and Critical Stress Debriefing services as needed.
- DHCD is pursuing a local hire Housing Specialist to assist disaster victims with housing issues through the Hurley DRC.
- Disaster assistance for Buchanan County has been expanded to include Emergency Food Stamps. Applications will be accepted 13 May 2002 through 17 from 0830 hrs to 1600 hrs at the Social Security office on Route 83 at Slate Creek. Contact for information is Buchanan County Social Services at 276-935-8106.

- A phone bank has been established to coordinate volunteer groups offering assistance. Volunteers can call 276-935-7419, then identify nature of call, what services they wish to perform, and *leave* a callback number.
- The Claypool Hill/Richlands Lowe's has donated \$3,000 worth of shovels and clean-up equipment for disaster victims
- *Knox Creek Fire Department trucks are back in service but there is no building to house the vehicles.*

**B. Public Assistance (PA)**

- *Seven (7) Requests for Public Assistance (RPAs) have been received and seven kick-off meetings have been held.*
- Current damage estimate totals \$6,997,089.94. The current eligible project worksheet amounts to \$47,201.46.
- The National Guard was activated 3 May 2002 and assisted by installing temporary bridges. Later assistance has been and continues to be in debris clearance in the Hurley area, with deployment through 17 May 2002.

**C. Community Relations (CR):**

- Three (3) FEMA Field Officers are deployed, one in Tazewell County and two in Buchanan County.
- One VDEM Field Officer is deployed in the Buchanan County
- Contacts continue to be made to insure registration of eligible residents.
- Audiotapes of disaster assistance information are available.
- A temporary Post Office for Hurley has been established in Blackey at the Blackey Teen Center. Mail to Hurley residents should use the normal Hurley address.
- Individuals unable to work because of severe storms and flooding in Southwest Virginia may file for Disaster Unemployment Assistance at the nearest VEC field office by no later than 10 June 2002.

**D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):**

- *State and federal Hazard Mitigation staff is scheduled to meet with Hurley officials on 14 May 2002 to discuss the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).*
- *Contacts have been made to arrange for participation by agency representatives at the 16 May 2002 community meeting in Hurley. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Forestry (DOF), State Corporation Commission (SCC) Division of Insurance, and Department of Community Development (DHCD) have been asked to attend..*
- Data is being extracted from study maps and data set from Army Corps of Engineers to assist Buchanan County to become compliant with NFIP reconstruction and renovation.
- Survey of stream damage in Buchanan & Tazewell Counties by NRCS anticipated week of 20 May.
- Draft of Administrative & Hazard Mitigation strategy plan will be drafted for submission to the DFO/SCO week of 13 May.

**E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):**

- Recovery Times has been updated for Tazewell and Buchanan Counties is available for distribution.

- Issued “Potential Hazards Lurk in Debris” news release for consumer safety.
- *News release issued on AmeriCorps volunteers performing clean up operations in Hurley.*

**F. Legislative Liaison:**

- An Environmental Scoping Meeting will be held at the DFO in Wise, Conference Room #3, at 1030 hrs on 15 May 2002. Environmental and permitting information will be shared by appropriate federal agencies with attendees.
- Congressional representatives have been invited to attend a meeting at the Wise DFO, Conference Room #1, at 1400 hrs on 15 May 2002 for a discussion of any disaster issues in their respective areas.
- A staff member of US Congressman Virgil Goode called 13 May 2002 regarding availability of assistance for tornado victims in his district. Designations of these jurisdictions have not yet been determined.

**G. Hazardous Materials:**

- Residents who find HazMat containers, drums, or spills on their property are being encouraged to call 276-566-8524 and regional HazMat responders will assess the situation and take corrective measures.
- Reconnaissance teams have covered 128 miles of waterway and roadway, checking on foot, by boat, and by vehicle for hazardous materials.
- On 14 May 2002 the HazMat teams are from Wise and Giles Counties and the City of Bristol.
- Significant HazMat operations are ongoing in Buchanan County. HazMat Teams from Wise County, Giles County, and City of Salem have worked nearly 1,150 hours since the beginning of the event. Items recovered include 1-20,000 gal. Tank, 11-20 lb., 15-100 lb., 11 large (100-500 lb.) propane tanks, 1-20 gal. drum, 8-35 gal. drums, 69-55 gal. drums, 27-65 gal. drums, 8-275 gal. tanks, 10-550 gal. tanks, 4-1,000 gal. tanks, numerous 5-gal. containers, 2 gas pumps, 2 kerosene heaters, 6 pressure tanks, 4 vehicle gas tanks, 1 cylinder, 1 transformer, 54 auto batteries, and miscellaneous pesticides. Disposal operations are ongoing. A mobile HazMat command post has been established outside of the Hurley Middle School in Hurley. DEQ is working out of the HazMat command post. Local propane companies have assisted by removing tanks from the area.

jh  
14 May 2002

---

**Michael M. Cline, SCO**